



Global warming and reproductive health

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Abstract:

The largest absolute numbers of maternal deaths occur among the 40-50 million women who deliver annually without a skilled birth attendant. Most of these deaths occur in countries with a total fertility rate of greater than 4. The combination of global warming and rapid population growth in the Sahel and parts of the Middle East poses a serious threat to reproductive health and to food security. Poverty, lack of resources, and rapid population growth make it unlikely that most women in these countries will have access to skilled birth attendants or emergency obstetric care in the foreseeable future. Three strategies can be implemented to improve women's health and reproductive rights in high-fertility, low-resource settings: (1) make family planning accessible and remove non-evidenced-based barriers to contraception; (2) scale up community distribution of misoprostol for prevention of postpartum hemorrhage and, where it is legal, for medical abortion; and (3) eliminate child marriage and invest in girls and young women, thereby reducing early childbearing.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security

Extreme Weather Event: Drought

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Desert

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Africa, Asia

African Region/Country: African Region

Other African Region: Sahel

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Region

Other Asian Region: Middle East

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Family Planning/Population Reduction): 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to promote family planning or reduce population growth as a climate change adaptation or mitigation measure

A focus of content

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Developmental Effect

Developmental Effect: Reproductive, Other Functional Deficit

Intervention: 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content